PATRICK's *Purgatory:*

OR, A

Fragment ſhall be ſaved.

BEING THE

HISTORY of *PATRICK,*

Reſtored and clear'd from the ſcandalous Aſperſions of a ſpurious Biographer.

To be continued WEEKLY.

DUBLIN:

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PREFACE.

Courteous Reader,

MY deſign in putting into your hands this fragment, is not from any deſire I have to ſhew how well verſed I am in the *Iriſh* language, nor yet to magnify *Patrick* or his *coachman*, or make any complaints of the *old gentleman*'s partiality to *two* of his ſons in prejudice to the *third*; but purely for the ſake of truth, and to undeceive all who think it worth their while to concern themſelves in the knowlege of the affairs of a private family, and convince them they are impoſed upon by the *pretended* tranſlator of the *fragment of the hiſtory of* PATRICK, who has either tranſlated it from a faulty Copy, or elſe knows nothing of the original language, or has wilfully perverted it, or has taken it from a Poet, as he ſeems to own, *p.* 6. for it is an heap of arrant lies, inſtead of a true hiſtory.

Where he found his manuſcript, I know not. I had *mine* from the *old office*, kept in the *houſe at the foot of the hill*, where all *Patrick*'s buſineſs was done, time immemorial, which any one may peruſe, who underſtands the language, and will be ſurprized to ſee how this inſipid tranſlator has varied from known facts, and related others never heard of before.

Compare and ſee——

PATRICK's

PATRICK's PURGATORY.

PATRICK had a conſiderable eſtate in land, which, for a long time, was badly inhabited, and his family worſe fed and cloathed; not that his own Children, who were the moſt numerous on it, wanted induſtry or ingenuity to improve the land, or exerciſe trades; but by reaſon that *ſtrangers*, recommended by the *overſeer*, reap'd the fruits of their induſtry, and fattened on the ſweat of their brow. When *George* had any quarrel with his neighbours, and wanted a *poſſé* to take poſſeſſion, or recover it, he made *Patrick* ſend his tenants, and pay them all the while they ſtaid abroad. When he had ſcraped and ſaved any ſum of money above his uſual living (which was poor enough) his *brother* duly ſent for it, unleſs once in twenty years it might happen that he writ to *Patrick* a very obliging Letter, teſtifying his great kindneſs, and deſiring he would make uſe of ſome part of *his own* money, in caſe he wanted it; *One* of which being a curioſity, as a juſt hiſtorian, I muſt not fail to inſert.

To my well beloved brother PATRICK.

Dear Brother,

" IT is always a pleaſure to me to hear of your welfare, " which I will always promote to the utmoſt of my power.

" The great quantity of holland ſhirts you have by you, con-
" vinces me you are extremely rich, and can want for nothing,
" and I will chearfully aſſiſt you to have more.

" I deſire you will be very charitable to the poor; and hear-
" ing you have ſaved ſome money lately, I graciouſly *conſent*
" you pay your debts out of it, tho' I can't conceive how you
" can get into debt; I'm ſure I never coſt you a braſs farthing.

" I know, *brother*, you are fooliſh at times, and at preſent
" I fear; becauſe you have peace both at home and abroad,
" you are apt to think yourſelf ſecure both from pilferers and
" robbers; but I, who am *wiſer*, tell you, now is the time of
" danger, and inſiſt on it you put iron bars in all your windows,
" and keep a watch at the end of your avenue to guard your
" houſe and money; and, for that end, I have ordered the
" *bearer* to take your money, and lay it out in iron bars and
" centry-boxes; and he will let you know (I don't doubt)
" what the neceſſary charge will be, and account either with
" you or me for the reſt.

" This can't fail of being highly agreeable to you — I rely
" on your brotherly affection in return for this inſtance of my
" regard.

" *Yours*, &c.

GEORGE.

This letter was read to *Patrick*, firſt at his houſe on *Mount Formal*, and then at the bottom of the hill.

Patrick looked d——ſh grum on it, and cou'd'nt conceive how taking away his money was the beſt method of keeping it for him, or how it ſhould be *neceſſary* to *bar* his houſe, when his neighbours were all friends with him, and yet leave it *open* when they were at daggers drawing. As for his holland ſhirts, he was aſhamed to wear them whilſt he was *barefooted* and *ragged-a—d*; or he wondered how he could be charitable when he had no money left. In this quandary *Dolly Major* and *Jenny Minor* (who were at all times his adviſers) agreed to tell him it was all for his good, and moved him to thank his brother for his kindneſs, and to let him know how hugely they were obliged to him for ſending his letter by ſo worthy an *overſeer*

whom

whom they loved like their own eyes, and were ſure came only for their goods.

How the two *houſemaids* came to agree ſo cordially in this advice, the D—l himſelf can't tell as yet; for tho' it be true, *Jenny Minor*, of late, was grown *plump and ſizeable*, and was a ſtarved-looking jade before *, and might therefore be ſuppoſed to have been well fed by the *overſeer*, and may be *debauched*, now ſhe was grown handſome; yet that will not account for ſo extraordinary a reconcilement — But we ſhall ſee anon, and ſhall not here break the thread of our hiſtory to explain it, or hunt for reaſons, and will only ſtop here, to give a character of the two houſemaids.

Dolly was from her infancy a little inclined to be termagant, full of *flouts* and *jeers*, and ſelling bargains among the footmen. *Jenny* had, generally ſpeaking, more ſenſe, or, at leaſt, more *wit*; for *hunger* is the mother of invention. But tho' ſhe ſpoke a great deal, nobody minded her. *Dolly*, 'ere ſhe was *fifteen*, became a common proſtitute, was every body's money, and would go aſide with a *ſtranger* at firſt ſight, if he chinked a purſe at her. *Harry*, the coachman, was the firſt that reclaimed her †, by telling her, ſhe had ev'ry thing in her power, if ſhe would be true to herſelf; that ſhe need not ſneak to any *overſeer*, but ſcorn his money, and live like a gentlewoman on her own means, which, by her induſtry, ſhe had fairly earned; that he had no intereſt in telling her ſo, becauſe he would not take a farthing to himſelf, tho' the *overſeer* daily tempted him to make her drunk and debauch her. She took his advice, and promiſed to uſe her influence on *Patrick* to take it too, which happily ſucceeded for twenty years, and ſuch a change for the better was never ſeen in any family before. The children were

Hon. Speaker Boyle

* *The Tranſlator of the* fragment *ſays, ſhe was a* ſkeleton, *p.* 24. *She was always* lean, *indeed, but never ſo unhealthy as to want any more than a little* kitchen phyſick, *though ſhe was wofully quacked, by ignorant doctors, before her caſe was found out.*

† *The reader is deſired to compare this with the Tranſlator's* pretended fragment. —— *The account he gives all through of* Harry, *and of* John *the market-man, is ſo much the reverſe of fact, that he has certainly taken the hint from the famous critick, who makes* Æſop *a beauty.*

were plump and well cloathed, the ſervants better fed, and following their buſineſs inſtead of idling and ſtarving *. The *tradeſmen*, inſtead of ſculking for debt, had money to lend; the farmers (aſſiſted, it muſt be own'd, by farmer *Goodman)* had tight habitations, to what they lived in before, and ev'ry thing ſmiled around, ſave a few *ſtrangers*, who had got one half of *Patrick*'s ſubſtance already, and were out of humour becauſe they hadn't it all. *Dolly*, by her advice to *Patrick*, had made him look kindly on his *children* and *tenants*, and *Harry* was ever at her elbow to keep her true to herſelf.

Jenny all the while waſted apace, and, what never happened before, quite loſt her *wit*. She could hardly ſay *bo to a gooſe*, every man of ſenſe, and of any property, was of *Dolly*'s ſide. The derided enemies of *Patrick*'s proſperity were pitiable to behold †, *proud and poor*. Some of them thick *blooded*, but happily tempered with water and ſmall beer, all except the *ſtrangers*, who lived in riot enough, at the expence of others, but would not keep even a *cat* at their own. All the time they fretted inwardly, and waited, and bit their tongue, 'till they ſhould get an *overſeer* to their mind. They hated *Dolly* and *Harry* as *old Nick* does holy water, but would take a ſprinkling when they could get it; for their pride, at any time, will ſtoop to their convenience. They got an *overſeer* at laſt, who thought he had no more to do but ſtamp with his foot, and raiſe an army like *Pompey* of old. But he was out in his calculation; and his *rhodomontade* came to begging and praying. He went back with a *flea in his ear*, and not a penny in his purſe.

He made a lamentable ſtory when he went back to Mr. *George*; ſaid *Dolly* was with child, by one of his brother *Andrew*'s highlanders; that ſhe had neither ſhame nor honeſty, and no more religion than a *Hottentot*; that he had left the *Chaplain* to convert her, and, as all *indulgences* were to paſs thro' his hands, hoped he might make a ſort of a Chriſtian of her.

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* *The reader is deſired again to compare notes.*

† *Here the Tranſlator blunders out a confeſſion*, p. 27, *that* Jenny *was a* ſpectacle de la nature. *Never, to be ſure, was a* minor *ſo juſtly deſpicable, and ſo deſervedly famiſhed.*

her. But the *Chaplain* went the wrong way to work, and, inſtead of changing her *principles*, only reſtrained her *practice*; and ſhe is now as ready to fly out as ever, and will ſhew her mettle, whenever ſhe finds the *overſeer* too buſy with her. *Jenny* is uppiſh, but her ſpirits are forced, and will die, of courſe, when the *hot bed* cools. *Dolly* grows on *natural ſoil*, and will ſhoot and flouriſh in the ſpring, and her verdure will be freſh and laſting.

Though I was a curious obſerver of all *Patrick*'s tranſactions for five and twenty years, and had heard a good deal from my goſſip *Ralph*, and *Will*, the two *coachmen* whom *Harry* ſucceeded, I could never rightly underſtand how *George* came to act ſo gingerly with his brother, and go round and round the buſh to get his brother to give him his money, as it were, from time to time, inſtead of taking it with a *high hand*, and giving it, and his land, in a lump to whom he pleaſed; for he was twice as ſtrong, and could have done it with a whiſtle; till I found the reaſon in a ſpeech to a grand jury, made by a couſin and counſellor of *George*'s, juſt after *James*, an uncle of *George*'s, had been playing ſome pranks. "Gentlemen," ſays he *, "it has been found by experience, that when our maſter G— "has had a mind to fleece and oppreſs his tenants, he has "always try'd his hand firſt on his brother *Patrick*; and when "ever you ſee any thing arbitrary and illegal done there, be "ſure he means the counterpart of ſuch treatment for you. "Now *James*, our late maſter, began with *Patrick*, and after-"wards with you; for nothing can be truer in the nature of "things, than that ſauce for a gooſe is ſauce for a gander." I remember old *Will* often uſed to ſay, this ſpeech made *George*'s people look about them; and after *James* was turn'd out for miſdemeanors, and their good friend, who rid them of him, had a mind to bear hard on *Patrick* †, and alſo ſent a meſſage to the houſe at home *under the hill*, to deſire they would provide *blue cloaths* ‡ for ſome men he had taken a fancy to keep about

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* *Lord* D—l—e's *ſpeech to the grand jury at* W——n, ann. 1690.

† *K.* W——m *had a mind to have eight thouſand men more in* I——d; *but though the* I—ſh *p——t conſented, the c——ns of* E——d *petitioned againſt it.*

‡ *The* D——h *guards.*

about him, which was the leaſt they could do for all his favours; inſtead of complying with him, they deſired to know "who had put ſuch ſtrange things in his head?" And if he had told them, as he did not, they would have trounced his adviſers to ſome purpoſe. When *Will* became coachman to *Patrick*, he wiſely conſidered the ſame anſwer might ſafely be ſent from *his houſe* when *George* deſired any thing unreaſonable, and did it but ſparingly; but when *Harry* got into the box, he gave the *overſeer* to underſtand there was ſomething more to be done than *up and ride*; that he knew no reaſon *George* ſhould meddle in his *brother*'s affairs farther than the *family ſettlement* allow'd *; and made his words good. All *Patrick*'s children, to a man, adored his bravery, and ſtuck to him for twenty years.

But it happened an *Attorney*'s *clerk* or two, who had little buſineſs at home, left *George*'s eſtate to ſeek their fortune with *Patrick*; and well they throve upon it; they were, at firſt, all curteſy and flattery to *Dolly* and the *coachman*, got their tit-bits in the family, had fidlers fare, meat and money, 'till they grew ſo ſawcy, there was no ho with them; they did not know what right miſs *Dolly* had to keep the keys of the *larder* and *cellar*; it was *George*'s meat and drink, not *Patrick*'s, who was a ſneaking beggarly fellow, and they would not be ſtinted. The *chaplain* came into the ſame tune, and away they went to the *overſeer* to complain, and put him in mind how that *bitch Dolly*, and her comrade *Harry*, had affronted him; that it never wou'd be well 'till he was turn'd off; that if he lent a helping hand, they would hoiſt him off the box. The *overſeer* conſented, but found there was no way to compaſs it, but to ſet up *Jenny* againſt *Dolly*, and how they contrived it will be ſeen in the next Chapter.

End of the First Chapter.

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* *Here the Tranſlator has inſerted a downright forgery, "that "it was an old rule in the family, that when* Patrick *neglected "his affairs,* George *ſhould do it for him." — He did, indeed, once; but it was no rule or right.*